Development of rail signalling system by an artisan

† 4040. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Sawatantra Bharat, a news-paper of Bihar, on the 7th July, 2001, under the caption "Mamooli karigar ne banai nai surakshit signal pranali";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to encourage such talent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The system has been examined and has not been found suitable.

(c) No system yet exists on railways to encourage such outside talents. However all suggestions are duly examined as and when received and appropriate action is taken.

Safe coaches for rail passengers

† 4041. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has sought advice of coach building factories, companies to make coaches full of facilities and safe for the passengers;

(b) if so, whether on this basis the railway workshops and coach manufacturing companies of all the nine Divisions have displayed their improved/ altered rail coaches; and

(c) if so, the details of the features found appropriate and by when they are likely to be put in use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Board has asked the coach building factories and all workshops on Indian Railways to come up with ideas that would make coaches safer and more comfortable for the passengers by way of redesigning the interiors and fittings. The effort was focused at minimizing

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,

injuries to the passengers in the event of any mishap and also to remove sharp edges etc. which might injure passengers in normal use.

(b) In order to attract maximum number of ideas, each Railway and Production Unit was asked to modify one coach, making it as injury free and crashworthy as possible and a competition was held in Delhi. Eleven such coaches were received and all of them had incorporated several innovative ideas.

(c) The suggestions made by various workshops and production units are now under close scrutiny. Features which are found appropriate for adoption on a global basis,'will be advised to the Zonal Railways and the Production Units for incorporation during POH/new manufacture. These improvements will be progressively implemented starting from the current year.

Palace on Wheels on Nagpur-Jabalpur stretch

4042. SHRI VUAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Eastern Railway proposes to introduce a luxurious train on the pattern of Palace on Wheels to traverse the Nagpur-Jabalpur stretch taking the travellers through Chhindwara, Seonic, Nainpur and Manda overseeing the sylvan beauty of Satpura range; and

(b) if so, when the proposed train is likely to be introduced alongwith its likely fare and the broad features for the benefit of tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to run a tourist train between Nagpur and Chhindwara/Jabalpur. The details are not yet finalized.

Contract between IRCON and Government of Malaysia

4043. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCON has entered into a contract with the Government of Malaysia for a project worth Rs. 5000 crores for doubling the track and electrification of a stretch in Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details of the project, the time within which it has to be completed the length of the track to be doubled and the length of the track to be electrified;